United Nations A/59/490

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 92

Training and research

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(b) United Nations University"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on sub-items (a) and (b) at its 34th and 35th meetings, on 16 and 17 November 2004. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.34 and 35). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 4 to 6 October and on 12 October 2004 (see A/C.2/59/SR.2-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in addenda to the present report as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/59/490 and Adds. 1 and 2.

04-63557 (E) 081204

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/59/230);

(b) United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University;[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (A/59/566).

4. At the 34th meeting, on 16 November, introductory statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Rector and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations University (see A/C.2/59/SR.34).

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/59/14).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 31* (A/59/31).

United Nations A/59/491

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 2004
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 93

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Enrique **García González** (El Salvador)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 18th, 44th and 45th meetings, from 4 to 6 and on 19 October and on 16 and 17 November 2004. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 93 jointly with items 94 and 95. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.1-5, 18, 44 and 45).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/120);

(b) Letter dated 22 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ministerial declaration adopted on the occasion of the special ministerial meeting to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77, held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 11 and 12 June 2004 (A/59/115).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 4 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

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5. Also at the 1st meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the delegations of Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 October, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the Under-Secretary-General, in which the delegations of the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Cuba and Sri Lanka took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

8. Also at the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

9. At the 2nd meeting, the representative of Senegal posed a question, to which the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit responded (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

II. Consideration of proposals

Draft decision A/C.3/59/L.16

10. At the 18th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft decision entitled "Outcome of the ten-year review of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/59/L.16).

11. At the 44th meeting, on 16 November, following a statement by the representative of South Africa, draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.16 was withdrawn (see A/C.3/59/SR.44).

Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.17

12. At the 18th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Chile introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/59/L.17), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,
>
> "*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session constitute the basic framework for the promotion of people-centred social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

"*Recalling also* the commitment to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, equality, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the further implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives agreed upon at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to have the primary responsibility in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

"3. *Underlines* the significance of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action;

"4. *Takes note* that the Commission will undertake, at that session, a review of the implementation of those documents and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"5. *Takes note also* of the decision by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2004/58 of 23 July 2004, that the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development should convene high-level plenary meetings, open to the participation of all United Nations Member States and Observers, on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and of its request to the Chairman of the Commission at its forty-third session to transmit its outcome, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration in 2005;

"6. *Reaffirms* the vital importance of achieving social development for all and of integrating social development objectives, as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development, into economic policy-making, including in policies that influence domestic and global market forces and the global economy;

"7. *Also reaffirms* the need to effectively place people at the centre of national, regional and international public policies by eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment and fostering social integration so as to promote stable, safe and just societies for all;

"8. *Recommends* that, in the context of the ten-year review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, particular attention be given to the

principle of a people-centred approach and to its concrete implementation through coherent national and international social and economic policies and processes, involving in particular a better understanding and management of the social aspects of globalization, the gearing of national and international macroeconomic policies towards the realization of social development goals and the enhancement of the capacity of national Governments to define and pursue their own social policies;

"9. *Emphasizes* the importance of integrating economic and social policies in promoting human resources development and enhancing the process of development, and requests the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development to continue to give particular attention to this issue in its forthcoming sessions, and invites the various entities of the United Nations system, with their respective mandates, to take into account the integration of economic and social policies in their respective domains;

"10. *Recognizes* that, while action taken to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits in the economic, social and related fields held during the past ten years will further promote social development, strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and assistance for development and progress towards increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required;

"11. *Reaffirms* that a strong political commitment by the international community is needed to implement strengthened and effective international cooperation and assistance for development, including social development, and that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and of the further initiatives for social development;

"12. *Stresses* the necessity of ensuring the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process through, inter alia, greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according social development a central position in their policies and programmes;

"13. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development;

"14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments and undertakings contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development,

to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session."

13. At its 45th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Chile introduced a revised draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/59/L.17/Rev.1), submitted by Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Japan, Morocco, Peru and the Republic of Korea, as well as by Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

14. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Morocco (see A/C.3/59/SR.45).

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

16. Also at the 45th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.17/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 18).

17. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, a statement of position was made by the representative of the United States of America. A general statement was made by the representative of South Africa (see A/C.3/59/SR.45).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

18. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Considering that, despite the efforts made and the progress achieved in some areas of economic and social development, vast sectors of our societies, in particular in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, are still facing serious challenges, including financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality in income growth and distribution, education and health, as well as environmental degradation,

Recalling the commitment to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the further implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives agreed upon at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] reaffirms that the

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] A/59/120.

Commission will continue to have the primary responsibility in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

3. *Underlines* the significance of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development and at which the Commission will undertake a review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and recommends that the Commission reflect the outcome of its review, on an exceptional basis, in a short declaration to be elaborated during its forty-third session, reaffirming the agreed commitments and the need for continued implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session;

4. *Welcomes* the decision by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2004/58 of 23 July 2004,[5] that the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development should convene high-level plenary meetings, open to the participation of all United Nations Member States and observers, on the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and also welcomes its request to the Chairman of the Commission at its forty-third session to transmit its outcome, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the General Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] in 2005;

5. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-third session and in undertaking the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, give particular attention to the people-centred approach and to its concrete implementation, as set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session, and that it emphasize the sharing of experiences and good practices in overcoming challenges to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session;

6. *Reaffirms* that the aim of social integration is to create a society for all, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play and that such an inclusive society must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law;

7. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improving their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers;

9. *Stresses* the vital importance of achieving social development for all and of integrating social development objectives, as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development, into economic policy-making, including into policies that influence domestic and global market forces and the global economy;

10. *Recognizes* that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy and the development and improvement of living standards around the world, while at the same time there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies and considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy for developing countries, and that unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy, and in this regard reiterates the need for further action in order to overcome those obstacles affecting peoples and countries and to realize the full potential of opportunities presented for the benefit of all;

11. *Looks forward*, in this context, to further consideration of the impact of globalization on social development at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, taking note of the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalizations;[6]

12. *Reaffirms* the need to place people at the centre of all our development policies in order to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration so as to promote stable, safe and just societies for all;

13. *Underlines* the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and the strengthening of their democratic systems, while reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that national policies have the leading role in the development process;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of integrating economic and social policies in promoting human resources development and enhancing the process of development, invites the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development to continue to give particular attention to this issue at their forthcoming sessions, and also invites the various entities of the United Nations system, with their respective mandates, to take into account the integration of economic and social policies in their respective domains;

15. *Recognizes* that, while action taken to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions in the economic, social and related fields held during the past ten years will further promote social development, strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and

[6] *A fair globalization: creating opportunities for all*, International Labour Organization, 2004.

assistance for development and progress towards increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required;

16. *Recognizes also* that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries, and in this context stresses the importance of achieving sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, as well as mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international and financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

17. *Stresses* the necessity of ensuring the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process through, inter alia, greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according a central position for social development in their policies and programmes;

18. *Reaffirms* the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[7]

19. *Reaffirms also* that education, employment creation and improvement in working conditions, which are some of the indispensable elements of poverty eradication, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and recognizes the need to promote employment that meets labour standards as defined in relevant instruments of the International Labour Organization and other international instruments;

20. *Encourages*, in this context, current initiatives of the United Nations system on the elaboration of comprehensive employment strategies and measures to foster youth employment, bearing in mind relevant international instruments pertaining to youth;

21. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, reaffirms also that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and underlines the fact that, at the international level, the recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged and discussed further at, inter alia, the intergovernmental level;

22. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational

[7] A/57/304, annex.

corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial, but also the developmental, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability;

23. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments and undertakings contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session.

United Nations A/59/492

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 December 2004
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 94

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Enrique **García González** (El Salvador)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled:

> "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family:
>
> (a) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;
>
> (b) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 7th, 13th, 18th, 29th, 37th, 42nd and 44th meetings, from 4 to 6, and on 11, 14, 19 and 28 October and 4, 11 and 16 November 2004. At its 1st to 4th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 94 jointly with items 93 and 95. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.1-5, 7, 13, 18, 29, 37, 42 and 44).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

04-63012 (E) 081204

Item 94
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Letter dated 5 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a note dated 17 March 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador concerning the launching of the Global Commission on International Migration (A/59/73)

Item 94 (a)
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (A/59/176)

Note by the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2002/4)

Item 94 (b)
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A/59/267)

4. At the 1st meeting, on 4 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the delegations of Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 October, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the Under-Secretary-General, in which the delegations of the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Cuba and Sri Lanka took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

8. Also at the same meeting, a presentation was made by the Inspector from the Joint Inspection Unit, who also responded to a question raised by the representative of Senegal (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

[1] See A/59/3; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1).

II. Consideration of draft proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.2

9. By its resolution 2004/13 of 21 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond". The draft resolution was reproduced in document A/C.3/59/L.2.

10. At the 13th meeting, on 14 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.2, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.18 and Rev.1

12. At the 18th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Portugal, on behalf of Angola, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth", which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 58/133 of 22 December 2003, in which it, inter alia, recommended devoting two plenary meetings at its sixtieth session, in 2005, to review the situation of youth and achievements attained in the implementation of the World Programme of Action ten years after its adoption,

"*Recognizing* the importance of the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation,

"1. *Decides* to convene, at its sixtieth session, two plenary meetings of the General Assembly devoted to the evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be held during the general debate of the Third Committee under the agenda item entitled 'Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family';

"2. *Urges* Member States to consider being represented by youth representatives when addressing the plenary on this occasion, taking into account gender balance;

"3. *Decides* that, while applying on an exceptional basis the rules governing previous special sessions of the General Assembly and given the availability of time, a limited number of non-governmental youth organizations which are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or which were accredited to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998 may also make statements in the debate in plenary, provided that their application for consultative status with the Council has not been rejected or that their consultative status with the Council has not been withdrawn or suspended, and that non-governmental youth organizations should be requested to select spokespersons and provide the list thereof to the President of the General Assembly through the United Nations Secretariat, and requests the President of the Assembly to present, in a timely manner, the list of selected non-governmental youth organizations to Member States for approval and to ensure that the selection of the organizations is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of non-governmental youth organizations and the equal representation of young women and men;

"4. *Also decides* that interested non-governmental youth organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998 may participate in the event, that such non-governmental youth organizations should submit their applications for accreditation to the Bureau of the General Assembly and the Secretariat by _____, and that the applications should contain the following information:

"(a) The purpose of the organization;

"(b) Information identifying the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the event and indicating in which country or countries the programmes and activities are carried out;

"(c) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

"(d) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, together with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

"(e) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

"(f) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

"(g) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

"5. *Further decides* that the Bureau of the General Assembly should submit by _____ to Member States for approval a list of the non-governmental youth organizations which have submitted their applications, that the list should contain information on the competence and relevance of each organization to the subject of the event, and that the list should be submitted to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis for a final decision by the Assembly on participation;

"6. *Decides* that non-governmental youth organizations whose application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council has been rejected or whose consultative status with the Council has been withdrawn or suspended should not be accredited to the event;

"7. *Urges*, in recognition of the importance of the equitable geographical participation of non-governmental youth organizations in the event, relevant United Nations bodies to assist non-governmental organizations that do not have the resources, in particular those from countries with economies in transition and from developing countries, including the least developed among them, to participate in the meetings;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to the community of non-governmental youth organizations all available information on accreditation procedures and information on supportive measures for participation in the event;

"9. *Decides* that an informal, interactive panel discussion on the theme 'Young people: making commitments matter' will be held in the afternoon of the day prior to the event; the Chairman of the informal panel will orally present a summary of the discussions of the panel to the General Assembly at the end of the debate in plenary meeting;

"10. *Agrees* that, in addition to Member States, observers, representatives of the entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, an invitation to participate in the informal, interactive panel discussion will be extended to not more than fifteen youth organizations, taking into account equitable geographical distribution. The President of the General Assembly, following appropriate consultations with Member States, will draw up a list of those youth organizations, on the basis of the recommendations of the Secretariat and taking into account the principle of geographical representation, and will submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis for a final decision by the Assembly on participation;

"11. *Decides* that the arrangements outlined in paragraphs 3 to 10 above shall in no way create a precedent for other similar events;

"12. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts made by the United Nations system to solicit input from youth organizations and young people into the current review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 14 of its resolution 58/133, and invites the Secretary-General to provide an overview of the input gathered from youth organizations to the Assembly at its sixtieth session."

13. At the 37th meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.18, joined by Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Guatemala, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Romania,

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Portugal orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, the words "*Requests* the Secretary-General to" were replaced by the words "*Decides* to" and the words "in order to enable them to participate in" were revised to read "to participate in the informal round-table discussion and side events to be held during";

(b) After operative paragraph 7, a new operative paragraph 8 was inserted, which read:

"*Decides* that the arrangements outlined in paragraph 5 above shall in no way create a precedent for other similar events;"

(c) Operative paragraph 8 was renumbered accordingly.

Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Grenada, Guyana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

15. Also at the same meeting, prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of China (see A/C.3/59/SR.37).

16. At the 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.18/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution II).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see A/C.3/59/SR.37).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.15 and Rev.1

18. At the 7th meeting, on 11 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Belarus, Cameroon, China, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/59/L.15), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, and resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and

that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

"*Reaffirming* that a basic education is crucial to nation-building, that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

"*Convinced* that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, youth and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they can face in life, and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

"*Affirming* that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of poverty,

"*Noting with deep concern* that, while considerable efforts have been made to address the objectives of the Decade at various levels, over 100 million children are not in school and some 800 million adults are illiterate today, that the issue of illiteracy is not sufficiently high on the agendas of both the developed and developing countries of the world to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global illiteracy challenges, and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if the present trends continue,

"*Deeply concerned* about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, prepared in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by Member States and the international community in launching the Decade and implementing the International Plan of Action;

"3. *Appeals* to all Governments to review on a regular basis the literacy situation in their countries and to establish benchmarks and indicators to monitor the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Decade, backed up by more reliable literacy data and information, and to further reinforce political will, mobilize adequate national resources, develop more inclusive policy-making environments and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

"4. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in coordinating the activities of the Decade at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in a sustained dialogue and collaborative action on policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts, and to report

biennially to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the progress achieved in implementing their national programmes and plans of action for the Decade;

"5. *Appeals* to all Governments and professional organizations to strengthen national and professional educational institutions in their countries with a view to expanding their capacity and promoting the quality of education, with particular focus on literacy;

"6. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all and those of the Decade, through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative, as appropriate;

"7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action, and to substantially integrate those efforts in the Education for All process and within the framework of the internationally agreed developments goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

"8. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to reinforce its lead coordinating role in stimulating and catalysing the activities undertaken at the international level within the framework of the Decade in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with the ongoing process of Education for All, with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and with other global initiatives, and to take immediate, concrete steps to address the needs of countries with high illiteracy rates and/or with large populations of illiterate adults, with particular regard to women;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit progress reports on the implementation of the International Plan of Action to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, beginning in 2006;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled 'Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family', a sub-item entitled 'United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all'."

19. At the 29th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.15, joined by Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Guyana, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Subsequently, Angola, Andorra,

Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Fiji, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Monaco, Namibia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Zambia joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

21. At the 29th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.15/Rev.1 without a vote (para. 25, draft resolution III).

D. Draft decisions proposed by the Chairman

Proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

22. At its 42nd meeting, on 11 November, the Vice-Chairperson, Rachel Groux (Switzerland), reported on informal consultations held on the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2002/4, annex) and read out an oral draft decision.

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see para. 26, draft decision I).

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

24. At its 44th meeting, on 16 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (A/59/176) (see para. 26, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

25. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002 and 58/15 of 3 December 2003 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 and its tenth anniversary in 2004,

Recalling also that relevant United Nations instruments on human rights as well as relevant global plans and programmes of action call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family, bearing in mind that in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of the family exist,

Recalling further that the family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened, and that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provided a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues,

Recognizing also the commendable efforts made by Governments at the local and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning families,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child,

Aware that families are affected by social and economic changes, manifested as observable worldwide trends, and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families have to be identified and analysed,

Noting with concern the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on family life, as well as the devastating effects on family life of other infectious diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis,

Noting also with concern the devastating effects of difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts and natural disasters on family life,

Recognizing the important role of non-governmental organizations, at both the local and the national levels, working in the interest of families,

Aware that there is a need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Recalling that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be observed and celebrated during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Notes* that the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2006;

2. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including applied studies and research, in order to promote the role of families in development and develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues;

3. *Urges* the international community to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and their follow-up processes, including those agreed to in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001;[2]

4. *Encourages* more inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on issues relating to the family;

5. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations, within existing resources, to further promote the exchange of experiences at the regional level through the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services, to Governments upon request;

6. *Emphasizes* that the Secretariat should continue its important role in the programme of work on family issues within the United Nations system and, in this regard, encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the Year, including through:

(a) The provision of policy guidance on emerging issues and trends affecting the family through the preparation of studies and research papers aimed, in particular, at enhancing the role of the family in society;

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[1] E/CN.5/2004/30.

[2] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

(b) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, to enhance, where appropriate, their national capacities in the area of family-related work;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to disseminate a compilation of existing development cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the field of the family for the benefit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other relevant United Nations bodies, Member States and observers by the time of the holding of the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in preparing for the observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

(b) To continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to provide financial assistance for activities specific to the family and for projects of direct benefit to it, with special focus on least developed and developing countries;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Draft resolution II
Policies and programmes involving youth: tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto,

Recalling also its resolution 58/133 of 22 December 2003, in which it, inter alia, recommended devoting two plenary meetings at its sixtieth session, in 2005, to review the situation of youth and achievements attained in the implementation of the World Programme of Action ten years after its adoption,

Recognizing the importance of the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation,

1. *Decides* to convene, at its sixtieth session, two plenary meetings of the General Assembly devoted to the evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be held during the general debate of the Third Committee under the agenda item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family";

2. *Decides also* to hold, prior to the plenary meetings, an informal, interactive round-table discussion on the theme "Young people: making commitments matter", which will be open to the participation of Member States, observers, organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations;

3. *Decides further* that one youth representative from a Member State will orally present a summary of the informal round-table discussion to the General Assembly at the beginning of the plenary meeting;

4. *Urges* Member States to consider being represented by youth representatives to address the plenary on this occasion, as well as in the above-mentioned informal round-table discussion, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance;

5. *Decides* to facilitate access to United Nations Headquarters by the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998 and interested non-governmental organizations that are neither in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council nor were accredited to the World Conference to participate in the informal round-table discussions and side events to be held during the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

6. *Urges*, in recognition of the importance of ensuring the equitable geographical participation of non-governmental youth organizations in the tenth

anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, relevant United Nations entities to assist non-governmental organizations that do not have the resources, in particular non-governmental organizations from developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate in the tenth anniversary;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to the community of non-governmental youth organizations all available information on the events associated with the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

8. *Decides* that the arrangements outlined in paragraph 5 above shall in no way create a precedent for other similar events;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations system to solicit input from youth organizations and young people into the current review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 14 of its resolution 58/133, and invites the Secretary-General to provide an overview of the input gathered from youth organizations as a supplement to his report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Draft resolution III
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, and resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming that a basic education is crucial to nation-building, that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, youth and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they can face in life, and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming the considerable efforts that have been made to address the objectives of the Decade at various levels,

Noting with concern that over 100 million children are not in school and some 800 million adults are illiterate today, that the issue of illiteracy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global illiteracy challenges, and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if the present trends continue,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, prepared in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,[2] as well as the report prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit[3] on achieving the universal primary education goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/59/267.

[3] See A/59/76 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by Member States and the international community in launching the Decade and implementing the International Plan of Action;

3. *Appeals* to all Governments to develop reliable literacy data and information and to further reinforce political will, mobilize adequate national resources, develop more inclusive policy-making environments and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

4. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in coordinating the activities of the Decade at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in a sustained dialogue and collaborative action on policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

5. *Appeals* to all Governments and professional organizations to strengthen national and professional educational institutions in their countries with a view to expanding their capacity and promoting the quality of education, with particular focus on literacy;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all and those of the Decade, through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative,[4] as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action, and to substantially integrate those efforts in the Education for All process and other initiatives and activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and within the framework of the internationally agreed developments goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to reinforce its lead coordinating role in stimulating and catalysing the activities undertaken at the international level within the framework of the Decade in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with the ongoing process of Education for All, with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and with other global initiatives;

9. *Requests* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with national Governments, to take immediate, concrete steps to address the needs of countries with high illiteracy rates and/or with large populations of illiterate adults, with particular regard to women;

[4] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 88 (*c*).

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek the views of Member States on the progress achieved in implementing their national programmes and plans of action for the Decade and to submit progress reports on the implementation of the International Plan of Action to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, beginning in 2006;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", a sub-item entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all".

* * *

26. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The General Assembly, taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/15 of 21 July 2004, decides to postpone consideration of the issue until its sixty-first session at the latest and requests the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to take into account the general ideas contained in the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[1] in the accomplishment of her mandate.

Draft decision II
Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.[2]

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[1] E/CN.5/2002/4, annex.
[2] A/59/176.

United Nations A/59/493

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2004
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 95

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Enrique **García González** (El Salvador)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 14th and 46th meetings, from 4 to 6 and on 15 October and 18 November 2004. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 95 jointly with items 93 and 94. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.1-5,14 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/59/164).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 4 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the delegations of Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.1).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 October, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

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7. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the Under-Secretary-General, in which the delegations of the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Cuba and Sri Lanka took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

8. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

9. At the same meeting the representative of Senegal posed a question, to which the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit responded (see A/C.3/59/SR.2).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14 and Rev.1

10. At the 14th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Azerbaijan, Belarus, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/59/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

"*Recalling also* Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, entitled 'Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002', in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

"1. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals consider the situation of older persons, ensure the integration of ageing issues into policies and programmes and provide opportunities for older persons to participate in decision-making and other activities;

"2. *Calls* on Governments and the United Nations system agencies and organizations, as well as the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons are adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects, especially at the country level;

"3. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and in this connection, encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

"4. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries, particularly in

developing countries, including international research, with a view to promoting international research coordination, exchanging knowledge and supporting policy responses to ageing;

"5. *Invites* the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their programmes of work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

"6. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to include in its agenda the situation of older women, particularly those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

"7. *Encourages* those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and requests the Commission for Social Development to clarify the role of the regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the content, format and date of its global review and appraisal exercise;

"8. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1, and requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session;

"9. *Reiterates* its request to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assign full-time focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, particularly through appropriate mainstreaming action;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

"11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At its 46th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14 and Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a revised draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/59/L.14/Rev.1). Subsequently, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Monaco, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino and Turkey joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.14/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 14).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002",[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake a review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

1. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] take into account the situation of older persons;

2. *Calls upon* Governments and the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandate, and encourages the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons are adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects;

3. *Invites* Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels;

4. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[4] and in this connection, encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

5. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries;

6. *Invites* the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

8. *Encourages* those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

9. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1,[2] and in this context requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to strengthen the capacity of the focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular through appropriate mainstreaming action;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests that it be forwarded to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[5] A/59/164.